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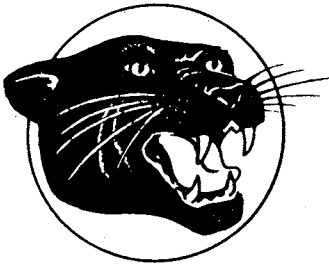
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Panther Sports News

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Jan. 26, 1981
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Two Rock Valley Junior College transfers, Mike Schwartz (Rockford West) and Dan Nivinski (Rockford Lutheran), have signed scholarships to play their college football at NCAA II National Runner-Up Eastern Illinois University.

The two linemen are enrolled for Spring Semester and currently participating in Eastern's winter conditioning program, said assistant coach Jeff Gardner.

The Panthers, 11-3 in 1980, lost the NCAA II championship game to Cal Poly/SLO, 21-13, in December. Eastern will advance to Division I-AA next fall.

Schwartz, 6-3, 230 defensive end, sat out last season after earning all-conference honors for RVCC the previous season.

"Mike has exceptional strength . . . he can bench 410," said Gardner. "We lost three senior defensive linemen so we think Mike can more than adequately fill one of those spots.

"This spring he'll work in Pete Catan's (graduated All-American) spot . . . he has Catan's strength and size, and the coaches have been impressed with his work habits and enthusiasm in our winter conditioning program," Gardner said.

Nivinski, 6-1, 230 offensive tackle, was also an all-conference performer for Coach Norm Matzl at RVCC.

"Dan played a year at Southern Illinois and then sat out a season before attending Rock Valley so he has just one year of eligibility here," Gardner explained.